

I claim:

1. A mailing machine assembly, comprising:

a mailing machine including a controller, a security module connected to said controller, and a non-removable program memory operationally connected to said security module and configured to store an initialization program; and

a removable authorization device to be operationally connected to said mailing machine and configured to be interrogated by said mailing machine;

wherein said security module is programmed to check whether authorization is present and for preventing an initialization of said mailing machine without authorization.

2. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, wherein said authorization device is indirectly connected to said mailing machine via a data source selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a laptop, and a remote data center.

3. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, wherein said authorization device is directly connected to said mailing machine.

4. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 2, wherein said mailing machine is a franking machine having a meter with a user interface, for a data input of predetermined INIT values, and a postal security device configured to check an authorization of the data input.

5. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 4, wherein said franking machine has a base with a first interface for attachment of said data source containing initialization data for said mailing machine, and a second interface for attachment of said authorization device.

6. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 5, wherein said authorization device is a dongle.

7. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 5, wherein said data source contains initialization data for said mailing machine and is configured to be attached to said first interface of said base of said mailing machine, and wherein said authorization device is a chip card and a chip card reader is operatively connected to said meter via a further internal interface and arranged to be integrated into said base.

8. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 5, wherein said first, second and further interfaces of said mailing machine are serial interfaces.

9. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 5, wherein said interface is a serial interface.

10. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 5, wherein said first interface of said base of said mailing machine is configured for attachment of said data source, said authorization device is connected to said data source via a parallel interface, said data source is a computer and is coupled via a serial interface of said mailing machine, and wherein a chip card reader is integrated and operatively connected to said meter via an interface of said meter.

11. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, wherein said mailing machine is a franking machine with a meter and a chip card reader integrated in said meter and coupled to a parallel bus of said meter via an interface and wherein said authorization device is a chip card.

12. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, wherein said mailing machine is a set of scales, and wherein a chip card reader is integrated into said scales and coupled

via an interface of said scales, and wherein said authorization device is a chip card.

13. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, wherein said mailing machine has a modem and a modem interface for loading therethrough the initialization data or values, and wherein said authorization device is an insertable chip card, for authorizing at least that part of the INIT data or values which are loaded into said mailing machine from a data source via said modem interface.

14. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, wherein said mailing machine is a franking machine having at least one program memory with an initialization program and a postal security module, for checking the authorization before and during the initialization, and wherein said postal security module is configured for loading initialization data.

15. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 14, wherein a checking of the authorization before and during the initialization is performed on the basis of a unique authorization number, input via a dongle or a chip card and wherein the authorization is given if the unique authorization number input into the mailing machine has a predetermined relationship with a number stored in said postal security module.

16. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 1, which comprises a program memory at least partly storing the initialization program, said program memory forming a component part of said security module, and including a separate program memory operatively in connection with said security module and storing another part of the initialization program.

17. The mailing machine assembly according to claim 16, wherein the other part of the initialization program is for initialization data stored in a non-volatile manner externally of the security module.

18. A method of initializing a mailing machine, which comprises the steps of:

switching a mailing machine into an initialization mode;

authorizing an initialization with an authorization device and checking authorization with a security module, in order to prevent initialization without authorization;

if authorization is found, inputting initialization data at least partly supplied by a data source; and

ending the initialization and cancelling of the authorization.

19. The method according to claim 18, which comprises:

switching a franking machine into the initialization mode and
establishing a connection to a data source;

authorizing initialization with an authorization device;

inputting a battery date BAT_DATE_SAD of a battery of the
security module, a telephone number of the telepostage data
center TDC of the destination country and a postage call-up
number PAN;

transmitting a serial number SAD-SN of the security module to
the telepostage data center TDC of the country, to initialize
a comparison of the serial number SAD-SN sent with a stored
serial number, and to generate a notification;

receiving the notification sent by the telepostage data center
TDC in the franking machine and loading codes DES-Keys for
credit recharging into the security module SAD; and

terminating the initialization and cancelling the
authorization by removing the authorization device.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the
establishing step comprises connecting via a transmission

device selected from the group consisting of a modem, a laptop, and a PC interface.

21. The method according to claim 19, which comprises switching into the initialization mode at the goods receiving location in the destination country as a result of activating a means of activating a user interface and establishing a connection to a data source via a transmission device selected from the group consisting of a modem, a laptop, and a PC interface.

22. The method according to claim 19, wherein the notification sent by the telepostage data center TDC includes a code MAC-Key for a security imprint, which is received by the franking machine and loaded into the security module SAD.

23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the codes DES-Keys for credit recharging include the subcodes Key(0), Key(1), Kvar and are loaded into the security module SAD.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the notification sent by the telepostage data center TDC includes extra data stored in a non-volatile memory externally of the security module and including the inkjet cartridge data.

25. The method according to claim 18, wherein the inputting step comprises inputting initialization data with the chip card.

26. The method according to claim 18, wherein a data input of extra data includes inkjet cartridge data and the data are stored in a non-volatile memory externally of the security module.

27. The method according to claim 18, which comprises interrogating the authorization device before and during the initialization of the mailing machine with predetermined INIT data.